

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 17, 2022

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on November 17, 2022 at noon CST at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper. The following board members were present: Michael Griffith, Travis Hickman, Staci Brockwell, Dave Pestillo, Michael O'Hagan, Kathie Tierney, Mandy Finotti, Sonya McShan, Joyce Burkhalter, and Erik McDaniel.

David Riley with "Marion News" and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the Chamber, were also in attendance.

A quorum of board members was present.

President Travis Hickman called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Erik McDaniel and seconded by Michael Griffith to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2022 board meeting. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the minutes is on file in the chamber office.

Financial Report:

Dave Pestillo presented the following financial reports : "Banking Summary – October 2022", and "Account Balances as of 11/16/2022". Each person present at today's board meeting received a copy of the financial reports. Motion was made by Eric McDaniel and seconded by Staci Brockwell to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried without dissent. A copy of the financial report is on file with the minutes.

Regarding a CD that the chamber has at Builtwell Bank, Joyce Burkhalter suggested that we might want to contact the bank to see if we could get a higher interest rate on the CD. President Hickman asked Dave Pestillo to contact the bank.

Mayor's Report

No mayors were in attendance at today's meeting.

Old Business

- 2022 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants

At the October Board Meeting, there was discussion about the grant for Raulston Woods & Gardens. At that meeting a motion was made, seconded and approved via evote to make

payment to Raulston Woods & Gardens for landscaping work completed and receipts received. Via follow-up evote the motion was approved. However, President Travis Hickman was also given leeway to contact Tab McNabb to see if the complete project originally approved can be finished by December 1, 2022. Therefore, payment is on hold until after December 1st. No payment has been made at this time pending the December 1st deadline.

- Advertising and Funding Budget

Mandy Finotti was asked to recap what was decided and voted on regarding advertising from the chamber. She explained that the hope is that advertisers will submit requests at the beginning of the year so that we can project advertising expenses in advance. It is recognized that there will still be pop-up requests for advertising and donations, but the expectation is that we can be more proactive regarding annual requests/opportunities.

There was discussion about the advantage of creating a form that could be submitted when requests for advertisement or donations are made. Mandy Finotti suggested that the advertising committee reconvene to develop such a form. Mandy agreed to set up a meeting with the committee.

- Career Days 2022/23

Dave Pestillo reported that the next career day program is scheduled for 8th graders at Whitwell Middle School on 12/9/22. Several presenters had already signed up, but at today's meeting others volunteered. Good discussion followed as to what the students responded to in previous career day presentations and whether there might be an opportunity to continue to add more diversity of topics presented.

New Business

- Parttime Administrative Position

The search committee, comprised of Michael O'Hagan, Staci Brockwell and Michael Griffith, has met and has updated an ad that can be submitted to Marion News and shared through the chamber's email, Facebook, and website. The committee recommends a deadline of December 1st for interested applicants to submit resumes.

The subject of salary was discussed. At present, this position is paid an hourly wage of \$14.00. While the chamber is flexible in allowing overtime hours when needed for special events, etc., the hourly rate remains unchanged for overtime. There are no unpaid benefits such as sick leave or personal leave. The position carries no health insurance.

The decision to change the name of the position to "coordinator" was discussed. Michael Griffith made a motion which was seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to advertise the position as "coordinator". The motion carried unanimously.

The board questioned David Riley as to how much it would cost to run an ad in Marion County News. He said it should be about \$35 per ad. While in the meeting, David emailed his staff to see if the ad could be included in the November 22, 2022 and November 29, 2022 editions of Marion News. After the meeting, it was determined that an ad could be included in the next two editions of the paper. Specific salary was determined not to be included in the ad; however, a statement would include that the usual 20 hours per week sometimes include additional hours as needed for special events. See copy of ad filed with the minutes.

Sonya McShan made a motion that the position of coordinator should pay \$15.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Mandy Finotti . Several members of the board had to leave the meeting early, therefore an evote will be requested.

- **Board Member Vacancy**

President Hickman announced that Patty Henry had submitted a letter of resignation from the board. Appointing a replacement is being tabled in order to allow time to see if there might be a member in the Whitwell area who could be appointed to the board. Michael Griffith agreed to see if the new owner of SueBob’s Diner might be interested in serving on the board.

Membership Application

The chamber has received a membership application from Bolt Farm Treehouse. The application has been reviewed by the chamber’s membership committee who recommends board approval. Michael Griffith made a motion to approve Bolt Farm Treehouse to be a member of the chamber. Eric McDaniel seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Note that this vote took place while a quorum was still present. A copy of the application is on file with the minutes.

Ad in “Home for the Holidays”

The chamber has received information about the upcoming 2022 edition of “Home for the Holidays”, an insert in Marion County News. Following discussion, a motion was made by Kathie Tieney and seconded by Michael Griffith to submit a ½ page black and white ad as we did last year but also including the chamber’s website to the ad. David Riley suggested working with Christy Saks with Marion News to change the graphics in the new ad. Several members of the board had to leave the meeting early so we will need to send for an evote.

Miscellaneous Business/Sharing

Packet handouts from today’s meeting listed upcoming events and included flyers. See copy on file with minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2022 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

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